

What is claimed is:

1. A method of forming a plurality of pre-greased collecting rods for a rotorod sampler, the method comprising:

5 (a) forming a group in which collecting rods and a header are formed as one piece;

(b) dipping the group into a pre-greasing medium apply a coating of grease to all of the collecting rods simultaneously, thereby to form the pre-greased collecting rods; and

(c) packaging the group with the pre-greased collecting rods in a container.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) comprises molding the group.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein step (a) comprises injection molding the group.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) comprises:

(i) assembling a plurality of the groups into an assembly; and

15 (ii) dipping the assembly into the pre-greasing medium to apply the coating to all of the collecting rods in the assembly simultaneously.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising, between steps (b)(i) and (b)(ii), adhering the assembly to a first component of the container.

20 6. The method of claim 5, wherein step (c) comprises attaching a second component of the container to the first component of the container to form the container.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein step (a) comprises forming the headers with pins and sockets, and wherein step (b)(i) comprises mating the pins with the sockets to assemble the groups into the assembly.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the pre-greasing medium comprises silicone grease.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the pre-greasing medium further comprises a suspension medium of hexane in which the silicone grease is suspended.

5 10. A group of pre-greased collecting rods for a rotorod sampler, the group comprising:

 a header;

 a plurality of collecting rods formed with the header as one piece; and

 a coating of grease on each of the collecting rods.

10 11. The group of claim 10, wherein the grease comprises silicone grease.

 12. The group of claim 10, wherein each of the plurality of collecting rods is attached to the header through a gate which is thinner than the collecting rod, and wherein the collecting rods, the gates, and the header are formed together as one piece.

15 13. The group of claim 10, wherein the header and the plurality of collecting rods are formed from acrylic.

 14. The group of claim 10, wherein each of the plurality of collecting rods has a collecting surface and comprises a nub extending from the collecting surface and identifying the collecting surface.

20 15. The group of claim 10, wherein the header has at least one socket and comprises at least one pin for engagement with a socket on another header.

 16. An assembly of pre-greased collecting rods for a rotorod sampler, the assembly comprising:

 a plurality of groups, each comprising:

25 a header;

a plurality of collecting rods formed with the header as one piece; and

a coating of grease on each of the collecting rods; and

a first container component to which the plurality of groups are attached.

17. The assembly of claim 16, further comprising an adhesive for securing the
5 plurality of groups to the first container component.

18. The assembly of claim 16, further comprising a second container
component attached to the first container component to form a container that encloses
the plurality of groups.

19. The assembly of claim 16, wherein the header of each of the plurality of
10 groups has a socket and comprises a pin, and wherein the headers of the plurality of
groups are engaged by their pins and their sockets.